10: d'Orleans--258 [2] T-3 (1891-92) 1894 Laos
116, 712, 177.71 Siam
636.71

[LSS: at Sop Nao] "Accompanied by Takiate, I repair to the Siamese post, which is formed of a collection of huts rather larger than the others, surrounded by a palisade; there is no flag, but a great many women and dogs. The garrison consists of twelve men, in European clothes made of strong linen, and armed with Remingtons. The officer in charge invites me to sit down and take tea with him. He tells me that the boats are ready, and promises to give us a letter for the chief of Muong Ngoi."

10: d'Orleans--265-266 T-3 (1891-92) 1894 Laos
116, 346, 531, 712

[LSS: at Muong Ngoi] "On the summit of a hillock that overlooks the valley stands a polygonal embankment formed of red [266] earth in which some openings have been made, a wall in the centre surrounds a block of masonry seven or eight yards in diameter which supports a dome of white plaster, with gilt ornaments. Above it, there is a cone made of seven gilded circles, surmounted by a point, the whole edifice may be about fifteen feet high, and I remark some small reliquaries containing rough statuettes, of which the faces are half obliterated. The natives, whom I question, tell me that it is a fort, and in truth, a few cannons in that position, could easily command both sides of the valley, but at present they are missing. However, in my opinion, the monument is of religious origin; it reminds me of similar edifices in Thibet; but I cannot obtain any information either upon the date or the object of its construction."

10: d'Orleans--369-370 T-3 (1891-92) 1894 Laos
116, 342, 361, 563, 712

"We reach Paklay. The river here is broad with sand-banks on either side and water just covering the top of the rocks. The village is situated on the right bank. The piles which support the houses are hid by a net-work of bamboo, arranged also to shut in the animals. A fairly clean hut is set apart for us, as we are to stay here for a day. The Siamese lieutenant has ordered our elephants, but we cannot have them before to-morrow, so I employ a part of the day in taking photographs. The town, if so it may be [370] called, is not large, having 780 inhabitants, including women and children. The Siamese garrison is made up of eighty men, and is shifted every three years. The lieutenant lives in one half of a rather large house, and the other half is occupied by Chinese merchants."

69: Lewis T-5 (1950) 1951 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

we sneaked past we could see a bonfire with a group silhouetted round it. Our passing appeared to go quite unnoticed.

We reached Muong Kassy about two hours later and slept in a large, barn-like Laotian building of thatch and bamboo, which served as the officers' mess. Insects had been at the bamboo and the slightest movement filled the air with a powder which had the effect of snuff. The building swayed slightly with each step, but no more when there were twenty occupants, as there were next day, than when there were only two.

Muong Kassy was the headquarters of a company of Engineers whose job was the upkeep of the bridges. They were uncomfortably isolated here on top of a small hill rising only partially free of the forests, with magnificent views in all directions, which nobody noticed any longer. There was no doctor, so that casualties of any kind might have to wait several weeks for a convoy going in any direction. In the rainy season, when roads and bridges disappeared, the garrison was confined to barracks for five or six months. Outside the stockades the usual straggling collection of Laotian and Chinese huts had formed, with saloons selling 'shoum', a fire-water made from maize. Everything was brought by convoy and was in short supply, except the shoum which was a local speciality. The store-keepers also had a stock of what was described in English on the label as 'fruit tonic'. The fruit tonic was made in Siam and was probably an industrial by-product; but the garrison had found out that shoum plus fruit tonic was more effective than either separately, and that stunned by a good stiff early morning dose of this, the day's boredoms could be better supported. A shoum-and-fruit-tonic relaxed the nerves too. It was after we had been introduced to this Muong Kassy custom that Dupont changed his plans, and quite forgetting about his pregnant wife, and the bicycle she might succeed in putting together, he said we would stay the day, and leave next morning.

Taking a guide from the camp, we went for a dip in the river.

facing: MEO WOMAN

When he returned to his States, Setthathirath endeavored to win over permanently to his cause the chieftains of Lakhone, Xieng-Khong, Xieng-Hai, /80/ Muong-Pray and Muong-Nan who had not supported Bureng-Naung, and when he was sure of their support he advanced as far as Xieng-Sen. But there he soon learned that the governor of Xieng-Hai had been taken prisoner by the Burmese and that his sister Nang-Kalay had been treacherously abducted. In spite of his anger, he judged it prudent to withdraw in the company of his allies, who left their governments in the hands of Bureng-Naung's lieutenants. 726 643* 648* 175*

Treaty of alliance with Ayuthya (1560). In order to oppose the common danger, he took the first steps towards reconciliation with the king of Ayuthya, to whom he proposed a treaty of alliance. The Siamese, who were rebuilding the ruins of their capital with courage but not without disquietude, joyfully accepted and their prince gave one of his daughters to Setthathirath. A frontier pyramid was built on the watershed between the basin of the Mekong and that of the river of Nan which flows down to the Menam. Solemnly surrounded by their courts, the two kings swore reciprocal friendship and assistance: "May the ties that bind us be prolonged from father to son down to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren; may quarrels be unknown between us and peace continue to reign /An unpaged photograph is inserted between pp. 80 and 81: "The That-Luong at Vientiane. "--Translator/ /81/ until the day when the sun and the moon fall to the surface of the earth" (1). 728 643* 648* 175*

1. Cf. Lefevre-Pontalis, La lutte des Thaïs contre les Birmans au seizieme siecle.

Vientiane, capital of Lan-Xang (1563). In order to avoid any surprise by the common enemy as well as to maintain the connection with Ayuthya, Setthathirath left Luang-Prabang permanently and transferred the capital of Lan-Xang to Vientiane. 643* 648* 175*

He was the true founder of this city which owes to him the splendor with which it shone during all of the seventeenth century and part of the eighteenth. He first surrounded it with solid bastion fortifications (2), then in the center near the river built the 633 643* 175* 172

2. From the vestiges which still remained around 1900 before the canal was dug and the circular boulevard laid out, /712/

633 Lunet de la Jonquiere has deduced that the ramparts of
643* Vientiane were composed of brick walls from four to six
175* meters in height with an earth banquette inside. They in-
172 cluded three sections, the salients of which were provided
/712/ with circular forts about eight meters high. Two gates which were fortified and crowned with spearhead ornaments gave entrance to the second section, one on the east towards the That-Luong, and the other on the west at the exit of the present Luang-Prabang road.

royal palace in the pagoda of which the emerald Buddha (Pra-Keo), the sign of power and command /82/ which he had brought from Xieng-Mai in 1548 (1), was placed.

/778/ 1. The emerald Buddha was in reality cut from a block of green jasper. The Siamese were to capture it in 1778 and take it to Bangkok, of which it became the tutelary divinity and where the sumptuous temple which rises today in the first court of the royal palace was built for it in 1785.

172 Of the eighty some pagodas which Vientiane was to boast, the
633 Wat Pra-Keo was assuredly one of the greatest and most beautiful.
175* "The trees which veil it (today), the lianas which tie it to the columns and spread a mysterious shadow over its ruins make the visitor feel something of what the soul of the ancients felt on the threshold of a sacred wood. Brick openwork forms the enclosure and monumental staircases lead to the parvis. A dragon writhes on the ramps and raises its menacing head in a last coil. The columns of the gallery are graceful, tall, slender and without a base, but end in a capital of long, sharp leaves which fold outwards and look as though they were raised by the weight which they bear. . . " (2).

2. De Carne, op. cit. /Voyage en Indochine et dans l'Empire chinois. Paris, 1872./

175* The sanctuary was built on a terrace with three levels. The facade
172 opened onto a monumental portico whose three gateways and side
346 windows were richly framed /83/ /Page 83 is devoted to an illustra-
532 tion: "Ruins of the Pra-Keo at Vientiane"--Translator./ /84/ with many-colored sculptures. The whole edifice was entirely gilded on the outside.